

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides an image processing apparatus capable of embedding predetermined information in an image, the apparatus comprising input
5 means for entering the image, division means for dividing the entered image into plural image areas, quantization means for quantizing the image areas divided by the division means, utilizing error diffusion method, and control means for controlling, in
10 the unit of the image area, the quantization condition by the quantization means according to the predetermined information.